



Nature's Adventures

By Steve Linenfelser • Outdoors writer



PHOTO COURTESY MIKE BAIRD WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



ABOVE AND BELOW: PHOTOS COURTESY MDF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



From top: The American coot, a pied-billed Grebes and a double-crested cormorant



This is Andra Gaige and Richard Rohn. The neighbors live on Wolf Lake and showed me the birds on their lake.

What is the Michigan Nature Association and what do they do around here?



The sign "slow, smoke hazard" warns drivers to be aware of the smoke ahead from the recent prescribed burn at the Michigan Nature Association's Goose Creek Sanctuary, just south of Cement City. Photo courtesy John Minar.

Migration season

Identifying ducks not all its quacked up to be

I was driving in to work in Toledo about a week ago when I got a call from an avid reader of the Exponent. It was a very nice lady by the name of Andra Gaige. She explained to me that she lives in Lenawee county off of U.S. 12 and witnessed these strange "ducks" landing, swimming, and then diving behind her house in the waters of Wolf Lake.

She explained that at first she witnessed just a few of these unknown aquatic birds, but then a flock of about 100 showed up later. Mrs. Gaige and her husband Charles did not know what they were, so Andra decided to give me a call to see what they

might be. When I heard her describe them, I first thought they might be Double Crested Cormorants due to the large number of birds landing and diving for food. Cormorants primarily nest in northern Michigan or Canada and would be returning from their winter migration from Central America, Mexico, or the southern United States. They are voracious eaters of fish and are not always popular with commercial fishermen.

When I finally made my way out to the Gaige's, I first met with Charles. He instructed me to wander out back and meet with his wife Andra. There I met both

Andra and a neighbor by the name of Richard Rohn. They were most friendly and were eager to tell me about their encounter. There was only one problem: The birds that they witnessed on the lake earlier were gone! "There was a bunch of them here this morning," said Richard. Andra agreed, and we chatted for a bit and discussed the possibilities of what type of birds they saw. Just as I was about to leave, Richard and Andra both pointed at the lake and said "There they are!" I had a camera, but these birds were over a hundred yards away and I couldn't zoom in close enough to

See *Nature* page B2

By John Hummer
Exponent staff writer

Maybe you live near or pass by the Cement City area and are vaguely familiar with the Goose Creek Grasslands Nature Sanctuary just south of the village or the Columbia Nature Sanctuary at the corner of Dearmyer and Taylor roads. Or maybe you live further north in the Napoleon area and often drive by the Lefglen Nature Sanctuary on Wolf Lake Road near Little Wolf Lake.

Maybe you've never stopped to explore these areas (and there are many more throughout the state), but they are some of the most priceless pieces of land in the state of Michigan. Fortunately for the residents of and visitors to the state, these lands will be protected forever thanks to an organization called the Michigan Nature Association.

People. Land. Legacy. That's what the organization is all about. People protecting land and leaving a legacy for the next generation.

Under the visionary leadership of Bertha A. Daubendiek, what started in 1951 as a small bird study group became a statewide land conservation organization with a mission is to protect the state's rare, threatened and endangered species and imperiled natural communities for future generations. This mission was revised over time as the organization expanded its ideology to accommodate land acquisition and conservation.

For six decades, the organization has acquired and protected an unparalleled network of more than 170 nature sanctuaries across the state from the Indi-

See *MNA's local impact* page B6

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It won't be long before goslings appear, as Canada geese have been on their nests for the past several weeks. This photograph of a pair near Hawkins Road comes courtesy Carol Mettler.

Do you have a cool picture to share with our readers? Send it to News@theexponent.com, along with a brief explanation of who took the photo along with where it was taken. We are looking for pictures of all kinds, from big fish to unusual sightings.

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see what they could be. And like a dumb-dumb, I forgot my binoculars. Andra and Richard offered up a pair of binoculars which I took a look at our surprise discovery.

I knew they weren't cormorants due to their shape. We decided we needed to get a better look, so we walked down along the shoreline to get a better view. We noticed a couple of the waterfowls swimming in the lake had red heads, and even though there is a species called "Red-heads," I do not think they were those Redheads. We got as close as we could, but to be perfectly honest with you, I still couldn't tell you with 100 percent confidence what species they were, due to the distance away and my lack of time. What we knew was the majority of these mysterious birds were dark with light colored bills. They would land, dive under water at times, and after a few hours, leave. Obviously they were migrating. Some were dark colored bodies with white colored beaks. Others were brown. I surmised they might be Coots, dark colored with light beaks, and the brown waterfowl were probably Grebes. This is only a theory. I plan on visiting the lake again to try and identify exactly what these feathered friends were. Let's start with the American Coot.

Coots act like ducks, but

are actually members of the rail bird family. They are excellent divers and swimmers and are often seen in large flocks. Like Cormorants, they migrate through Michigan back from South America, Mexico, and the Southern U.S. They don't have webbed feet like ducks, but instead have large lobed toes. The females lay her eggs on the floating nest of plant leaves, with a clutch of about 6-12 eggs. One of the unique features about these diving birds is that they have, like all birds, three eye lids. They have an upper and lower eyelid, with a third which is usually clear between the two eye lids and the cornea. The third lid is a nictitating membrane. This eye lid is used for blinking, keeps their eyes moist, and protects them from their chicks when they feed them. In diving birds like the Coot, the nictitating membrane has a clear center, which acts like a contact lens underwater. The Coots' beaks are handy for cracking open snails and other crustaceans.

Pied-billed Grebes are another migrating bird seen on Michigan's waters in the summer. They are also excellent divers and have been called "Hell Divers" because of the length of time then can be submerged. They eat dragonflies, shell fish and frogs. They are both insectivores and carnivores. They too,

build their nests on floating mats of vegetation. Although small in size compared to other aquatic birds, about 12-15 inches long, they are fierce defenders of their territory and will attack larger birds to defend their territory. Another fun fact about Grebes, is that they actually eat their own feathers throughout their lifetime. Biologists believe the feathers act to strain the stomach contents, preventing fish bones from passing through their intestines. They will often spit up pellets of undigested feathers and other hard matter. Yummy . . . NOT!

The fun part about bird watching is that you never know what may show up in our backyards, trees, or lakes. Sometimes we know what birds we are seeing, other times we aren't sure. Like the purple or house finch, many birds look very similar. But it's OK if we do not know at first what they are, because that gives us another reason to experience the wonders of nature, to share an experience with our neighbors and friends, and it's fun making new discoveries.

For example, while I was driving to work in Toledo that very day the radio DJ was talking about their minor-league baseball team, called the Toledo Mud Hens. The funny part about that? The American Coot is also called a Mud Hen. Ha! How about that.



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- The GBA (precursor to the Brooklyn - IH Chamber of Commerce) presented their slate of officers including: Elmer Carmer, Don Montgomery, Jack McCabe, Don Hoyt, Harold Mangus, Robert Donohoe, Andy Sanders, George DuBois, Randall Arksey and Jim Knutson.
- Among the Cement City seniors presenting the high school play "My Sister Eileen" were: Larry Williams, Mary Leimbach, Larry Choate and Cynthia Cheetham.

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THROWBACK TIME

Page courtesy The Pointe Bar and Grill • 1200 Eagle Point Drive • Clarklake



Above: Clarklake school kids from 1947; Right, the Eagle Pointe Resort and Boat Landing at Clark lake; Below, a milk cap from the Hayes Jersey Farm at Clarklake; Left, a school souvenir.



At left: The Clarklake class of 1941. From left to right, seated: Marjorie Armentrout, Lorraine Jensen, Betty Preston, Hilda Wood, Jeanne Myers, Dorothea Roosa, Althea Herzberg, Janet Rhoads and Nancy Willnow. Standing are ___ Hopkins, Louis Kohn, Billy Lewis, Eugene Dunham, Tommy McCready, Harvy Herzberg, David Gregory, Ted Phillips, Tommy Norman and Richard Hopkins. The teacher is Lucille Wilson.



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Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Addison Congregational Church* • 202 S. Talbot St.
www.addisoncongregational.com
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship, Junior Church

Christian Life Center • 18036 Quaker Rd., Hudson
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Worship

New Life Baptist Church • 9856 US-127
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Wednesday mid-week

BROOKLYN
Abundant Life Assembly of God* • 130 S. Main St. • alaog.org
(Irish Hills Centre - main entrance)
Sunday:
8:30 a.m. Refreshments
8:45 a.m. Celebration Service
10:30 a.m. Refreshments
10:45 Worship Service
Wednesday:
6:30 p.m. Bible Study

All Saints Episcopal Church* • 151 N. Main St.
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Cornerstone Community Church* • 201 Constitution Ave.
9:00 a.m. Early Worship
10:00 a.m. Main Worship
Nursery & Children's Ministries: both services
7 p.m. Sun. - Student Ministries (Jr./Sr. High)
www.CornerstoneBrooklyn.org

First Baptist Church* • 402 S. Mill St. • fbcbrooklyn.org
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10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship, Children's Church
(Nursery provided)
6:00 p.m. Youth Group (7th - 12th grade)
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study (2nd & 4th Sunday)
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. *AWANA Clubs for Boys & Girls
(3yrs - 6th grade) Aug. 31, 2016 - Apr. 26, 2017
*AWANA registration at fbcbrooklyn.org

Heart O' Lakes United Brethren Church* • 7031 Jefferson
www.mylakeschurch.com
9:15 a.m. Adult Classes and Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Children's Program and Worship
6:15 p.m. Wednesdays - AWANA (Sept-April)

Presbyterian Church* • 160 N. Main St.
8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Worship (child care provided)
Sunday School During 10:30 a.m. Worship
Ecumenical Community Prayer Group
3rd Thursday of each month 10:00-11:30 a.m.
in the sanctuary
We gather to pray for our community and our nation.

Solid Rock Church • 124 Julian St.
3:00 p.m. Sunday Worship Service
3:00 p.m. Sunday School, ages 3-12
7:00 p.m. Tuesday Group Bible Study

St. Mark's Lutheran Church* • 11151 US-12
10:30 Worship
9:15 Sunday School, Youth Hour, Adult Bible Study
Holy Communion - 2nd and 4th Sundays

CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION
St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church*
Cambridge Junction
10:00 a.m. Worship

Crosspointe Church* • 13191 M-50
9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

CEMENT CITY
Cement City Baptist Church* • 16788 Cement City Rd.
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
7:00-8:00 p.m. Wednesday Services and Youth Group

CLARKLAKE
Clarklake Community Church* • 9224 Hyde Rd.
Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sunday School to Follow

Fellowship Baptist Church • 3200 Reed Rd.
10:00 a.m. Sunday School • 11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Sunday Evening Service
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Service

St. Rita Catholic Church* • 10516 Hayes Rd.
4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass.
(5:30 p.m. Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day)
9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass

DEVILS LAKE
Day Star Pentecostal Church of God
6431 Devils Lake Hwy.
10:00 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship
Wed. 7:00 p.m. Prayer & Bible study

Lutheran Church of The Lakes* • 8800 N. Rollin Hwy.
at US-223
8:15 • 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
9:40 a.m. Sunday School
9:45 a.m. Bible Study and Catechism

HUDSON
Abounding Love Fellowship Church • 111 S. Church St.
10:30 a.m. Worship

First Baptist Church • 111 E. Main St.
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Worship
Wed. 7:00 p.m. Adult Prayer & Bible study

IRISH HILLS
St. Joseph's Catholic Shrine • 8743 US-12
Saturday — 5:00 p.m. Mass (church)
Sunday — 8:00 a.m. Mass (church)
11:00 a.m. Mass (family center)

JACKSON
Jackson Free Methodist Church* • 2829 Park Dr.
Sunday — 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church • 2620 Francis St.
Sunday — 9:00 a.m. Adult Instruction
10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday — 7:00 p.m. Worship

Harmony Baptist Church* • 6475 Ann Arbor Rd.
Sunday-9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Adult Prayer
Wednesday-Adult Bible Study/Children Youth Club

LEONI TOWNSHIP
The Refuge Bible Church • 2155 S. Portage Lake Rd
Sunday - 10 a.m. Fellowship and Sunday School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
Wednesday - 6 p.m. Refuge Youth
6 p.m. Adult Bible Study

LIBERTY
Liberty Christian Fellowship • 101 W. Liberty Rd.
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Church Service

Skiff Lake Bible Church • 8277 S. Jackson Rd.
9:30 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

South Jackson Community Church • S. Jackson/Kimmel
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
10:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School

Universalist-Unitarian Church of E. Liberty*
2231 Jefferson Rd., Clarklake
11:00 a.m. Sunday School, Worship
www.libertyuu.org

MANCHESTER
Community Bible Church • 8400 Sharon Hollow Rd.
10:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:30 p.m. Wednesday AWANA
7:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Victory Baptist Church • 419 S. Macomb Street,
9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Refreshments
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Children's Church
6 p.m. 2nd and 4th Sunday Evening Service
6:30 p.m. Youth group, meal
7 p.m. Wednesday, Adult Bible Study & Prayer

MANITOU BEACH
Manitou Road Baptist Church • 175 Manitou Rd.
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Children's Church
10:45 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

St. Mary on the Lake Catholic Church* • 450 Manitou Rd.
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6:30 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study
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11:00 a.m. Worship
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7:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Service

NAPOLEON
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9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
6:30 p.m. Sunday Evening
6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday Team Kids K - 5th grade
6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday THE REFUGE 6th - 12th grade
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Adult Prayer Bible Study

First Baptist Church • 108 East Ave
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Worship
Wednesday — 7:00 p.m. Adult Prayer & Bible Study • Teens
Soldier 4 Christ

Napoleon United Methodist Church* • 210 NottawaSespee
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (Upstairs)
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Downstairs)
9:30 a.m. Wednesday - Adult Bible Study

New Life Worship Center • 4532 Brooklyn Rd.
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Service
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study & Youth Service

NORVELL
Norvell Community Baptist Church
204 E. Commercial Drive
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship

ONSTED
Gateway Community Church* • 268 S. Main St.
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship

Irish Hills Community Church • 9734 Slee Rd.
517-467-7011
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Springville United Methodist Church
10341 Springville Hwy
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for adults
10:15 a.m. Worship

ROLLIN
Rollin Center United Methodist Church*
3988 Townley Hwy.
8:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship

Rollin Baptist Church • 16951 Forrister Rd.
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study

Rollin Friends Church
Corner of Rome Rd. & Rollin Hwy.
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer and Bible Study

ROME
North Rome Baptist Church • 12526 W. US-223
8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Worship
9:35 a.m. Sunday School

West Adrian Community Church • 4545 Wolf Creek Hwy
10:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Bible Study

West Rome Baptist Church*
11984 Rome Rd. • www.westrome.com
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Sunday evening service/small groups
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Mid-week activities

SOMERSET/SOMERSET CENTER
Grace Baptist Church* 12240 US-12
10:00 a.m. Bible School
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Service
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting
and Bible Study

Somerset Beach Free Methodist Church*
9822 Brooklawn Ct. at Somerset Beach Campground off
US-12 near Somerset Center
10:00 a.m. Worship (Field House)

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10:00 a.m. Fellowship • 10:30 a.m. Worship
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Somerset Congregational Church*
10449 N. Somerset Rd.
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Somerset Center United Methodist Church*
12095 E. Chicago Rd. (US-12)
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
8:30 a.m. Sunday School

TIPTON
Community Congregational Church
9240 Tipton Hwy. • 517-431-2460
10:00 a.m. Worship

Lifehouse • 9425 Tipton Hwy
517-438-6275 • lifehouseministry.com
10:30 a.m. Sunday
7:00 p.m. Thursday Soaking Prayer

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11:00 a.m. Worship

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Seeing Christ in the Passover

“God baked his eternal truth in the symbols of this ceremony from ages past.”

David Bricker



David Bricker

By Linda Hass

What do the Jewish Passover and Jesus' last supper have in common? David Bricker, a messianic Jew, posed that question to 500 people who gathered at Jax Naz Church Thursday night for “Christ in Passover,” an hour-long presentation designed to show the parallels between the ancient ritual and Jesus Christ. The event, in the sanctuary of the church, 3905 Clinton Rd., drew non-Christians and Christians from various denominations throughout south central Michigan.

“Woven into the fabric of Passover are pictures and symbols that reveal God’s redemption plan through the ultimate Passover Lamb, Jesus the Messiah,” said Bricker, executive director of Jews for Jesus, a messianic Jewish non-profit or-

ganization.

The event focused on the biblical last supper in which Jesus’ apostles huddled together in an upper room sharing bread and wine—elements that would come to symbolize Jesus’ body, blood and sacrifice on the cross before Easter morning. Bricker’s presentation included insights from a Jewish perspective, a dramatic visual display, responsive readings and a demonstration of a traditional Jewish Passover Seder, or meal, seasoned with a dash of humor.

Bricker, who stood on the stage next to an elaborate dinner table, greeted the audience with a hearty “Shalom!” The table, draped in black linen, was set with two candles, silver goblets, symbolic foods and special implements.

“I know what you’re thinking: What the heck is ‘Jews for Jesus?’” he joked. “The name sounds like a contradiction; like saying vegetarians for meat. Basically, we are Jews who believe Jesus is the Messiah.”

Guided by Jewish tradition and the Haggadah (the script retelling Passover), Bricker explained the ritual of Passover, starting with the first cup of wine. “This cup symbolizes God’s sanctification,” he said, lifting up



David Bricker, the executive director for Jews for Jesus, presented “Christ in Passover” at Jax Naz Church, 3905 Clinton Rd., on Thursday. The event drew 500 people from southern Michigan.

a goblet.

Other foods included a sprig of parsley, or “karpas” dipped in salty water, symbolizing the tears of Israelite slaves in Egypt. The green symbolized new life through the Israelites’ deliverer, Moses; but for believers, it symbolizes liberation from the bondage of sin through another deliverer—Jesus.

Ground horseradish, or “Jew-

ish Dristan,” as Bricker jokingly called it, was the most pungent of elements, representing the bitterness of affliction experienced by Israelite slaves. For believers, however, it points to the affliction of a suffering servant who died for the sins of the world.

It’s followed by the sweetest offering, chopped apples and nuts mixed with honey. The mixture forms a pasty substance that is spread on matzah wafers, symbolizing the mortar Israelite slaves spread on bricks. “God baked into the symbolism of this ritual a sign revealing how our lives are sweetened by the hope of God’s redemption through Jesus,” he said.

The second cup of red wine commemorates the time the biblical Angel of Death passed over the Israelites, sparing their first-born sons. In Exodus 12, God told the Israelites to spread blood on the top of their doors and the two side door posts, as a sign to the angel to “pass over” their homes.

“In doing that, in reaching to the lintel and the two sides, God was positioning them to make the sign of the cross. It also was a harbinger of the time a savior would shed his blood as a perfect sacrifice, so that death would pass us over too,” Bricker said.

One of the most poignant elements is the “matzah,” or bread of affliction, a baked wafer with tiny holes in it. “This reminds Jews of the bruises and afflictions Israelite slaves endured,

but it also symbolizes the bruises and piercings Christ experienced in becoming the Passover Lamb,” he said.

The elements are followed by a traditional Passover meal – a multi-course feast guaranteed to leave no one hungry. Before the meal concludes, celebrants will have taken sips from four cups of wine, with the last cup symbolizing “hallel,” or praise to the God who redeems.

“God baked his eternal truth in the symbols of this ceremony from ages past,” said Bricker.

One attendee from Lansing who did not identify as Christian or Jewish, said he came out of curiosity and found the event “thought provoking.”

Before the presentation, Joe Hyjek of Jackson said his former church frowned on his attending a similar Jews for Jesus event. “That was years ago, and I’ve wondered what it was like all these years. This is my chance to find out.” After the event, an ecstatic Hyjek was eager to comment. “This was the clearest explanation of the Gospel I’ve ever heard. It exceeded all my expectations!”

Steve Foote of Albion said the presentation helped him understand the Jewish roots of his Christian faith, and to see how God wove his story of redemption into the fabric of history: “All the symbols, all the rituals—they all point to Christ.”

Irish Hills Community Church Invites You To Their 2017 Easter Events

“The Cross, The Tomb, and The Cloud” The most powerful 40 days in the history of the world!

This year’s three-part Easter play lays out the benefits for you because of the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of our Lord Jesus and will be presented over three Sundays @ 10:30 am, beginning Easter Sunday!

Each Sunday will involve a time of music and worship, a 30 minute illustrative, entertaining play of the benefits for you from the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the ascension of Jesus - with a short closing message.

April 16th - “The Cross”

The message of how the Easter story can give you forgiveness and significance. This play will illustrate the principle of true forgiveness!

Play title: “Forgiveness Takes Two”



April 23rd - “The Tomb”

The message of how the Easter story can give you purpose and power. This play will illustrate the principle of having a purpose in life!

Play title: “Busy Going Nowhere”



April 30th - “The Cloud”

The message of how the Easter story gives you eternal hope and acceptance. This play will illustrate the principle of being accepted and loved!

Play title: “Lovable But Lonely”



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For more information call 467-4759